



Social Studies Virtual Learning

AP Government

Required Document:

Letter from Birmingham Jail

(Part 1: Background & Sourcing)

April 15, 2020



AP Government: *Letter from Birmingham Jail* (Part 1)

April 15, 2020

Objective: PRD 1.A

Explain how constitutional provisions have supported and motivated social movements.

Let's Get Started!

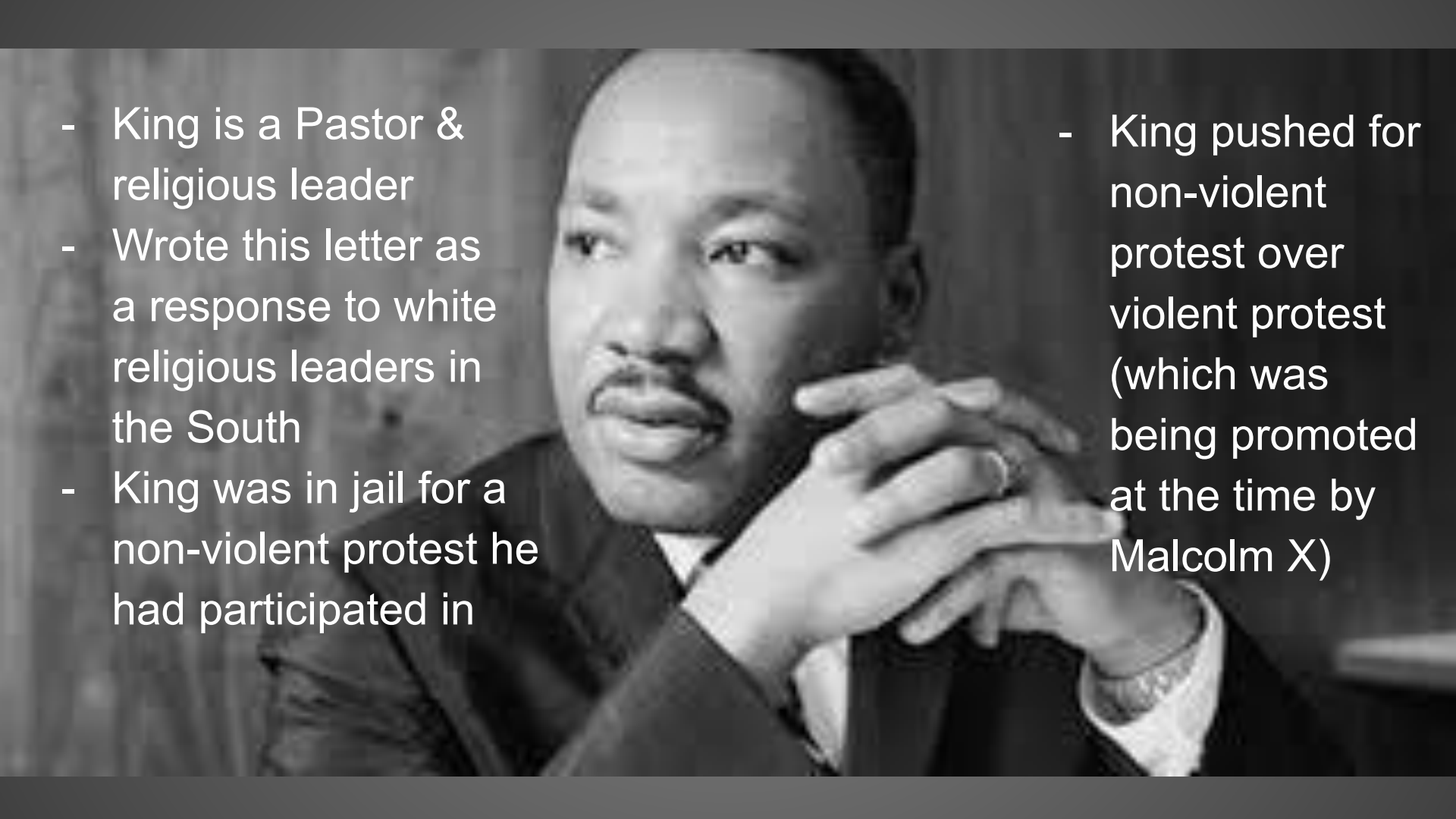
For this lesson, you will need to open the Letter from Birmingham Jail ([LINKED HERE](#)). Feel free to print it off if you would like, or you can save it to your device. It does need to be accessible! However, I will be putting specific activities and questions from that document in this presentation.

There are 4 lessons over this document. The first will be today (Wednesday). There will be 2 on Thursday and 1 on Friday. But since this is a required document we wanted to spend some time with it!

Warm Up Question:

What do we **KNOW** about Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.? In your notes, write down a list of things you know about him.

I'll add a few things on the next slide for you to check against. My list isn't exhaustive, but it will get at some things that are important to know for this document.

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- King is a Pastor & religious leader
 - Wrote this letter as a response to white religious leaders in the South
 - King was in jail for a non-violent protest he had participated in

- King pushed for non-violent protest over violent protest (which was being promoted at the time by Malcolm X)

Now that you've looked at what you know about him, let's unpack social action for a minute.

Think about how social action can affect our American national government. Copy down this graphic organizer and fill out any examples you can think of.

How might social movements affect...	Examples
Public Opinion	
Legislative Policy	
The Supreme Court	

Now what?

Based on what you wrote in your chart, why do you think social action is so important to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr?

Given that King stands for non-violent protest, write a prediction of what King's focus might be in this letter.

We will continue on with the next lesson, which will be tomorrow.